Council Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2022

Members Attending
Alex Reyes (S.A.)
Andy Imparato (DRC)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Brian Winfield (DDS)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Eric Ybarra (S.A.)
Harold Ashe (F.A.)
Joyce McNair (F.A.)
Julie Neward (F.A.)
Julie Gaona (S.A.)
Julio Garnica (S.A.)
Kara Ponton (S.A.)
Kilolo Brodie (F.A.)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Maria Marquez (S.A.)
Michael Ellis (F.A.)
Michael Rillera (F.A)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)
Nicole Adler (S.A.)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

Members Absent
Harold Fujita (F.A.)
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Julie Austin (F.A.)

Members Absent (cont.)
Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)
Liz Laugeson (UCEDD)
Michael Thomas (DOR)

Others Attending
Aaron Carruthers
Adam Willoughby
Albert Feliciano
ARCA
Anne De Medeiros
Beth Hurn
Brian Weisel
Bridget Kolakosky
Charles Ngyuen
Chris Arroyo
Christine C. Tolbert
David Grady
Debbie Marshall
Dena Hernandez
Doug Sale
George Lewis
Jennifer Lucas
Julie Eby-McKenzie
Ken DaRosa
Lisa Hooks
Lulu A.

Others Attending (cont.)
Mari Ahumada
Mary Ellen Stives
Maureen Fitzgerald
Michelle Cave
Nicole Patterson
Renee Bauer
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben
Scarlett VonThenen
Sheila Abrams
Sheraden Nicholau
Tania Morawiec
Veronica Bravo
Victoria Schlussler
Yaritza Sanchez
Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:31 A.M.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**
A quorum was established.

3. **SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER**
Chair Witherspoon and Executive Director Carruthers swore in new Councilmember Julie Gaona.

4. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**
Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
There were no public comments.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES**
<u>**Action 1**</u>
<u>It was moved/seconded (Reyes [S.A]/ Ashe [F.A.]) and carried to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)</u>

7. **CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon reported that he attended the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2022 Conference in Washington DC. The conference covered a wide spectrum of disability-related topics, including innovative research, programming, and advocacy efforts. Chair Witherspoon spoke about the healthcare related highlights from the conference, stating that they discussed what quality healthcare entails, current barriers, strategies to improve access, policy recommendations, and what can be done to tackle those barriers to create change.

On November 16th, Chair Witherspoon sent a letter to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi detailing the needs of people with disabilities. He mentioned the importance of employing people with disabilities, options in healthcare services, education, accessible transportation, training on important life issues, community inclusion, and exposure of abuse.

Chair Witherspoon asked that members refer to their meeting packets for SCDD committee reports. The committee reports and Chair Witherspoon's complete presentation can be found online at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/.

8. **2022-2023 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS**
Chair Witherspoon announced a change to the order of items. The 2022-2023 Chair and Vice Chair elections was moved to item 8.

W&I Code Section 4535(b) requires the Council to elect its Chairperson and Vice Chairperson by a majority vote. When the Nominating Committee met on October 10th, they reviewed and adopted a slate of self-nominations. Interested eligible members were also given the opportunity to nominate themselves or other eligible members to serve in either position. Candidates were considered as follows (in alphabetical order):

Chair: Vice Chair:
Alex Reyes (S.A)   Kara Ponton (S.A)
Kara Ponton (S.A)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A)

Each candidate had the opportunity to give a statement to the Council. An election was held separately for each office. Following member statements by the candidates for Chair, a roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Wesley Witherspoon won the majority vote for Chairperson with 20 votes.

Members voted to elect Councilmember Kara Ponton as the new Council Vice Chair.

Chair-elect Wesley Witherspoon and Vice Chair-elect Kara Ponton will serve in their positions from January 2023 until December 2024. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

9. **SB 639 REPORT OVERVIEW**
Chair Witherspoon announced a change to the order of items. The SB 639 report overview was moved to item 9.

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky and Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Tania Morawiec presented an overview of the SB 639 report to Councilmembers. SB 639 (Durazo) was signed into law on September 27, 2021. The bill amended the Labor Code to phase out subminimum wage for people with disabilities. SB 639 requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, in consultation with stakeholders, to produce a report to develop a multiyear phaseout

plan by January 1, 2023. Part of the requirements include planning benchmarks to achieve the outcomes of the 14-c phase out plan, developing recommendations for funding levels or other resources necessary to implement the plan, data collection, and reporting requirements to track outcomes of employees with disabilities. Outreach and follow up is also required for any worker with a disability who is being paid less than the minimum wage.

The Council reviewed what has been done in other states and what the Employment First State Leadership of Mentorship Program identified as best practices, which included: demanding change among target populations, developing evidence-based promising practices, making advancements in legal/policy landscape, maximizing efficiencies through goal alignment and resource coordination, and demonstrating improvements in desired outcomes via rigorous performance measurements. California has adopted many of these practices.

Deputy Director Moraweic presented some of the issues, recommendations, and ideas that were shared by the stakeholder group and national subject matter experts. Some of the recommendations include: expansion of the State as a Model Employer effort, upskilling and certification for direct employment service staff, increased use of SB101 throughout the state, information options offered in different languages, culturally informed services, developing pilot projects to share outcomes, transitioning youth from sub minimum wage into CIE planning, consistent use of definitions and application across the state, exploring an acuity-based payment structure, creating a monitoring structure for SB 639 goals, and creating a cross-agency data sharing system.

The Council has been working with the stakeholder group/national SME's, hosting community conversations at regional centers, and hosting a letter writing campaign to gather community feedback.

The full presentation can be accessed at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/.

10. **ADVOCACY EVOLUTION NARRATIVE**
Los Angeles Regional Manager Chris Arroyo and family advocate Guadalupe Nolasco presented on their experience with advocacy and its evolution over time.

Chris shared his experience as an SCDD Regional Office manager in guiding, supporting, and developing self and family advocates into leaders. He described what he refers to as the "arc of advocacy," the typical process through which self and family advocates go from requesting information from Regional Offices to becoming strong advocates and activists that have the skills, knowledge and resources that they need not only to obtain the services and supports that meet their individual needs, but to engage in systems change work in their communities.

Guadalupe, a parent of three children with disabilities, has been working with the LA regional office for over 10 years. She exemplifies the transition from knowing little about the system to becoming a strong community leader working to bring systemic change. Guadalupe shared her experience with developing her advocacy skills and explained how working with SCDD has given her the confidence and skills to feel supported as a parent advocate, the knowledge to advocate for change, and the desire to be an active community member.

Los Angeles Regional Office Manager Chris Arroyo described how the State Council benefits from direct feedback from those they support and collaborate with. Feedback from community members like Guadalupe is used to improve trainings, develop new resources, and connect more members of the community. In return, support groups and advocates relay all of what they learned from the Council to their support group members, peers, friends, and family members. It paves a way for informed advocacy and strong community leaders.

11. **2022 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT**
State Plan Committee Chair Kilolo Brodie and State Plan Manager Rihana Ahmad presented highlights from the 2021-2022 Program Performance Report (PPR).

The State Plan Chair reported some of the work that SCDD's staff has done throughout the year and how it helps to achieve the State Plan goals of self-advocacy, systems change, and capacity building. In supporting the State Council's self-advocacy efforts, staff held 12 statewide chats, 160 regional self-advocacy chats, supported 1 statewide group (SSAN), supported 15 regional self-advocacy groups, provided 45 trainings, prepped 760 peer leaders, and participated in 18 self-advocacy projects and 7 events. Examples of self-advocacy projects that the State Council supported include voting workshops for people with disabilities, the Leaders Empowering Self-Advocates Leadership Project, and SAC 12. In supporting systems change and advocacy efforts for the year, staff monitored 200 systems/entities and 16 bills, supported 196 trainings, trained 2,500+ professionals, attended/hosted 2,041 meetings, and supported 2 statewide projects, 34 regional projects, and 2 Cycle 44 projects. Some examples of systems change projects that SCDD supported include: the self-determination program, SB 639 (the elimination of subminimum wages), and partnering with Los Angeles Unified School District to provide staff/students/family with alternatives to conservatorships. In supporting capacity building, staff participated in 207 collaborative meetings, provided 89,785 people with technical assistance, supported 410 trainings, prepped 70 peer leaders, worked on 38 capacity building projects, supported two cycle 44 projects, and participated in 44 events. Examples of capacity building projects include distributing 2,848,289 pieces of PPE, distributing 319,368 COVID tests, Colaboracion Latina, Yurok Tribe ECE SpEd Training Collaborative, and Madres Lideres.

The State Council provided 6,385 activities, 651 trainings, trained 18,301 people, reached 91,681 people through technical assistance, reached a total number of 168,945 people, and distributed 10,303 electronic resources in 2022. 95% of those surveyed said they were satisfied with SCDD's program trainings, 84% of self-advocates reported increasing their advocacy after participating in SCDD programs and trainings, and 81% of self-advocates said they are better able to say what they want or need after participating in SCDD activities.

The PPR presentation summarized the work that SCDD has done to meet the first-year goals of the State Plan. Staff discussed each State Plan goal

and the number of activities, trainings and/or technical assistance actions that were completed under each goal or subcategory. They also shared stories from community members about how SCDD's work has made personal impacts as well as information about projects that the Council has been involved in to help achieve the State Plan goals of self-advocacy, systems change, and capacity building.

Key take-aways from the data include: SCDD staff met or exceeded all of the measures that were expected for the first year, attention to systems change work is reflected in the data with 51% of activities in goal two systems change and an increase of requests from professionals with technical assistance. 1,297,595 Californians were directly reached through SCDD activities and 3,768,646 people were impacted through SCDD's systems change activities in 2022. The full presentation can be accessed at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/.

Action 2
It was moved/seconded (Imparato [DRC]/McNair [F.A.]) and carried to approve the 2021-2022 Program Performance Report for submission to the Administration on Community Living. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

12. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS**
Due to time restrictions, the Executive Director report was removed from the agenda.

13. **2023 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND ADJOURNMENT**
Councilmembers were provided with a calendar of 2023 Council and Committee meeting dates. The next Council meeting will be held on January 24, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 PPR	Chair Elections	Vice Chair Elections
Adler, Nicole	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Ashe, Harold	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Brodie, Kilolo	For	For	Ponton	Ponton
Bycel, Lee	For	NP	Witherspoon	Ponton
Ellis, Michael	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Gaona, Julie	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Garnica, Julio	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Imparato, Andy	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Liu, Cathay	For	For	Reyes	Ponton
Marquez, Maria	NP	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
McNair, Joyce	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Neward, Julie	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Ponton, Kara	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Reyes, Alex	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Rillera, Michael	For	NP	Witherspoon	Ponton
Ryan, Rosanna	NP	NP	Witherspoon	Ponton
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	NP	Witherspoon	Ponton
Wavrin, Nick	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Winfield, Brian	NP	NP	Witherspoon	Ponton
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Ybarra, Eric	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton
Yin, Larry	For	For	Witherspoon	Ponton